



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/549,245	09/12/2005	Keith Hart	SMB-PT158 (PC 03 560 B US	5997
3624	7590	04/03/2007	EXAMINER	
VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C. UNITED PLAZA, SUITE 1600 30 SOUTH 17TH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			KRISHNAMURTHY, RAMESH	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3753
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	04/03/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/549,245	HART ET AL.
	Examiner Ramesh Krishnamurthy	Art Unit 3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 - 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 - 5, 7 - 15 and 18 - 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6, 16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

This office action is responsive to communications filed 01/16/2007.

Claims 1 – 21 are pending.

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 – 5, 7 – 15 and 18 – 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 11 54 982 B.

The document DE 11 54 982 discloses an insertion part (Figs. 1 – 10) that can be embodied as a flow regulator / backflow preventer, that can be used in a fluid line, the insertion part comprising a housing (7, 8), a displaceable sealing body arranged in the interior of the housing which can seal a flow opening (21) of a feeder channel in a closed position, the insertion part being provided with an annular lip shaped part (1) having an annular body (1') held inside the housing, and which in an area of the at least one flow opening has at least one sealing lip (4) as the sealing body that can be displaced by the fluid, with a free lip end region (5) that contact an opposing housing surface (14) in a sealing manner in the closed position. A housing core (13) is provided inside the housing. The sealing lip (5) is indeed downstream of the control lip (4).

Regarding claim 3, it is noted that part (4) of the sealing body (1) is regarded as the control lip that serves as the throttle body or control body. Regarding claims 7 and 8, figure 5 discloses grooves or moldings that are provided on the housing wall adjacent the free lip ends (5) of the control lip (4) with the grooves or moldings embodied as flow

channels open in direction of a circumference of the housing core (13). Figure 4 shows the grooves (18) to be even spaced and are configured in rounded shapes similar to that of ellipsoid or arc or polygon shaped grooves. The reaction pressure and reaction behavior of the sealing lip are indeed predetermined by the length, thickness and /or material characteristics of the lip shaped part (1). The housing is indeed comprised of two parts (7, 8). A radial connecting bar (12) is disclosed that connects the core (13) to the upstream part (8) of the housing.

3. Claims 6, 16 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 01/16/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments concerning the applied reference DE'982 are not persuasive. Applicant's argument that in DE'982, the valve lip moves towards the housing (7) when in the open position and thus is incapable of adjusting the volume to a maximum value is unpersuasive. The extent of the movement of the valve lip is clearly governed by the flow and as such the valve does regulate the flow. In regard to the argument that the lip gap is narrowed in the instant invention and not in the DE'892 reference, it is noted that such a limitation is not presently recited in the claims.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

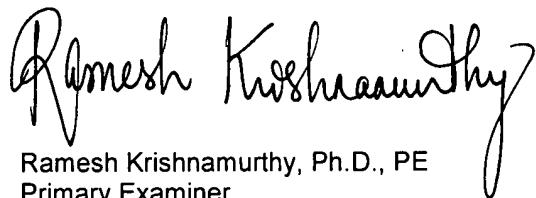
Art Unit: 3753

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramesh Krishnamurthy whose telephone number is (571) 272 – 4914. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Keasel, can be reached on (571) 272 – 4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 – 8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ramesh Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., PE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753